Scott, when he consented to the advance of McDowell's army, should certainly have taken the responsibility of giving a positive order to Patterson to attack Johnston.

Difficulties of a somewhat similar character embarrassed the commanders of the two Confederate armies. The new government established itself in Kictonond in the latter part of May, and President Davis, either in person or through Cooper, the Adjutant-General of the arrny, assumed very soon the direction of military affairs. But Mr, Davis, although he had been educated at West Point and. had seen service in the Mexican war, was not by profession a soldier, nor did he show himself the possessor of military ability to any noticeable extent. Moreover, he had his hands full of his new duties as President of the Confederacy. The two Generals, —Johnston and Beau regard,—were, in consequence, left very much to themselves. On June 12, we find Beauregard writing to the President,[1] setting forth his views of the military situation, and entreating " that a concerted plan be adopted at once by the Government for its different columns," as otherwise they were liable to "be assailed in detail by superior forces and . . . cut off or destroyed entirely." Mr. Davis's reply[2] was in general terms. On

June 21st, Johnston thus writes to Beauregard: * " In the absence of a common superior, I am anxious to correspond with you; to be informed of your neetlH,—
that T may help you when the Htate of thingH in my

[1] lleaurcgard's *Manassas^* 149.
[2] 2 W. K[M] 922. [3] H win regard's *3/tinrlx$<it* 145.